



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For Information Contact Public Affairs**

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### **Former Employee of Residential Facility Found Guilty of Criminal Negligence of Vulnerable Adults**

**Washington, D.C.** - Steven Baxter, 54, of Washington, D.C., a care giver in a residential facility for developmentally disabled adults, was found guilty on October 15, 2009, of criminal negligence, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips and the District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today. Baxter was found guilty following a bench trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Stephen F. Eilperin. Baxter, who was a care giver in a residential facility operated by PSI Family Services, Inc., was sentenced to 180 days in prison, with all days suspended. In addition, Judge Eilperin placed Baxter on one year of supervised probation, and ordered him to pay a fine of \$500, plus \$50 to the Victims of Violent Crimes Compensation Act fund.

According to the government's evidence, on September 17, 2006, Baxter was assigned to care for two adults in a residential facility. While Baxter was outside the residence, not performing his duties, one of the men stabbed the other. The court found that the defendant neglected to perform his supervisory duties owed to the two facility residents, as required by law.

In announcing the conviction and sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Patient Abuse Investigator Jonathan Rich and Supervisory Criminal Investigator Jacqueline Franklin of the Office of the Inspector General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU), for their investigation of the criminal negligence. Mr. Phillips and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Tryon and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stuart Silverman of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.

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